



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
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Mixture of Weather Proves Beneficial for Farmers

The weather during the spring has been a mixture of warm days, cool nights, and timely rain storms which allowed farmers in Maryland and Delaware to plant crops in soils with good moisture. The development of crops for both states in general is ahead of normal. According to the “Acreage Report” released on June 30th by the USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service, farmers have decreased corn acreage in nearly all states while soybean acreage has increased. This report encompasses a survey that was conducted and based on June 1 conditions throughout the Nation.

Maryland: Maryland farmers are expected to plant 480,000 acres of corn in 2008, down 11 percent from 540,000 acres planted in 2007. They expect to harvest 410,000 acres for grain, with the remaining acreage harvested for silage or other uses. Soybean acreage is expected to increase 18 percent to 470,000 acres. Farmers also report that they will harvest 215,000 acres of winter wheat and 45,000 acres of barley, in 2008. Summer potato farmers will harvest 2,700 acres, down 10 percent from last year. In addition, farmers expect to harvest 45,000 acres of alfalfa and 160,000 acres of other types of hay.

Delaware: Delaware farmers indicate that they have planted 160,000 acres of corn this spring, down 18 percent from 195,000 acres of corn planted in 2007. A total of 152,000 acres are expected to be harvest for grain with the remaining acres harvest for silage or other uses. Farmers indicate that they will also plant 185,000 acres of soybeans, up 23 percent from last year. Farmers expect to harvest 78,000 acres of winter wheat and 22,000 acres of barley in the upcoming weeks. Summer potato farmers will harvest 1,900 acres, down 5 percent from last year. Hay will be cut from an estimated 15,000 acres, the same acreage as 2007.

United States: Corn planted area for all purposes is estimated at 87.3 million acres, down 7 percent from last year. Despite the decrease, corn planted acreage is the second highest since 1946, behind last year's total of 93.6 million acres. Growers expect to harvest 78.9 million acres for grain, down 9 percent from 2007. If realized, this would be the second highest since 1944, behind last year. Farmers increased corn plantings 1.31 million acres from their March intentions. Planting got off to a slow start across the Corn Belt, Ohio Valley, and the northern half of the Great Plains as frequent precipitation and cool temperatures during March and April prevented spring planting preparations. Corn planting was 27 percent complete on May 4, down 32 points from normal. Despite intermittent showers and below normal temperatures, producers were able to make rapid progress during May, particularly across the upper Midwest and northern Great Plains. Farmers reported that 97 percent of the intended corn acreage had been planted at the time of the survey interview compared with the average of 98 percent for the past 10 years.

Soybean planted area for 2008 is estimated at 74.5 million acres, up 17 percent from last year but 1 percent below the record high acreage in 2006. Area for harvest, at 72.1 million acres, is up 15 percent from 2007. Compared with last year, planted acreage increases are expected in all States, and the U.S. planted area for soybeans is the third largest on record. The largest increase is expected in Nebraska, up 950,000 acres from 2007, followed by Illinois and South Dakota, both up 900,000 acres. Increases of at least 800,000 acres are also expected in Indiana, Iowa, and Minnesota. If realized, the planted acreage in Kansas, New York, and Pennsylvania will be the largest on record. Nationally, farmers reported that 79 percent of the intended soybean acreage had been planted at the time of the survey interview, which is the lowest since 1996.

ACREAGE, YIELD AND PRODUCTION 2007 AND 2008

Commodity	Unit	Planted		Harvested		Average Yield		Production	
		2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
Maryland		1,000 Acres						1,000	
Corn ¹	ACR	540	480	----	----	----	----	----	----
Corn, Grain	BU	----	----	455	410	103	----	46,865	----
Corn, Silage	TON	----	----	75	----	12	----	900	----
Soybeans ¹	BU	400	470	380	460	27	----	10,260	----
Wheat, Winter	BU	220	255	170	215	68	66	11,560	14,190
Barley ¹	BU	45	50	34	45	84	----	2,856	----
Hay, All	TON	----	----	215	205	2.15	----	462	----
Hay, Alfalfa	TON	----	----	40	45	2.80	----	112	----
Hay, Other	TON	----	----	175	160	2.00	----	350	----
Apples	LBS	----	----	----	----	----	----	33,000	----
Peaches	TON	----	----	----	----	----	----	3.3	----
Potatoes, Summer	CWT	3.0	2.7	3.0	2.7	320	----	960	----
Delaware									
Corn ¹	ACR	195	160	----	----	----	----	----	----
Corn, Grain	BU	----	----	185	152	97	----	17,945	----
Corn, Silage	TON	----	----	7	----	10	----	70	----
Soybeans ¹	BU	150	185	145	182	24	----	3,480	----
Wheat, Winter	BU	57	80	55	78	68	70	3,740	5,460
Barley ¹	BU	21	25	19	22	78	----	1,482	----
Hay, All	TON	----	----	15	15	1.93	----	29	----
Hay, Alfalfa	TON	----	----	5	5	2.20	----	11	----
Hay, Other	TON	----	----	10	10	1.8	----	18	----
Potatoes, Summer	CWT	2.0	1.9	2.0	1.9	260	----	520	----
United States								1,000,000	
Corn ¹	ACR	93,600	87,327	----	----	----	----	----	----
Corn, Grain	BU	----	----	86,542	78,940	151	----	13,074	----
Corn, Silage	TON	----	----	6,071	----	18	----	106	----
Soybeans ¹	BU	63,631	74,533	62,820	72,121	41	----	2,585	----
Wheat, Winter	BU	44,987	46,605	35,952	40,252	42	45	1,516	1,817
Barley ¹	BU	4,020	4,130	3,508	3,640	60	----	212	----
All Hay	TON	----	----	61,625	60,439	2.44	----	150	----
Hay, Alfalfa	TON	----	----	21,670	20,778	3.35	----	73	----
Hay, Other	TON	----	----	39,955	39,661	1.95	----	78	----
Apples	LBS	----	----	----	----	----	----	9,343	----
Peaches	TON	----	----	----	----	----	----	1.11	----
Potatoes, Summer	CWT	53.7	48.0	51.3	45.5	332	----	17.0	----

¹ Acres planted for all purposes.